



Marin Alsop appointed Principal Conductor of Bournemouth Symphony

In a move which has generated huge media interest, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra have announced their appointment of **MARIN ALSOP** as their new Principal Conductor, effective from the 2002/3 season.

The first woman ever to be appointed to head a UK orchestra, Alsop's contract runs for an initial period of 4 years. She will conduct 12 weeks per season, to include concerts in the south and south west of England, national and international tours and recordings. She returns to the Bournemouth Symphony for two weeks this season as Principal Conductor Designate, for programmes including Hindemith, Stravinsky and Bartók. She was recently nominated for a Brit Award for the first in her best-selling Barber symphonic cycle for Naxos with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (of which she remains Principal Guest until the commencement of her Bournemouth contract), and will continue to record in her new position in Bournemouth.

Marin Alsop continues to be in great demand for guest conducting engagements. Next Summer

she makes her debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival; this Autumn she returns to Dallas, Detroit, National Symphony in Washington and New World Symphony in Florida, as well as to Indianapolis, Baltimore and to the Minnesota Orchestra later in the season. She also conducts the New Japan Philharmonic in Tokyo - her first visit to Japan since touring with Leonard Bernstein shortly before he died. Her European guesting schedule is also extensive: Hamburg Philharmonic, Komische Oper Berlin, Dutch Radio, Helsinki Philharmonic, and concerts in London with the BBC Symphony, the London Philharmonic at the Royal Festival Hall, and with the London Symphony at the Barbican in a special Walton Centenary Concert.

www.intermusica.co.uk/alsop.html

EXCLUSIVE TOURING AGREEMENT WITH ROTTERDAM PHILHARMONIC

One of Europe's leading orchestras, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, has joined Intermusica as exclusive worldwide touring partners. The first fruit of this relationship is a short European tour at the end of October with the Orchestra's Principal Conductor Valery

Gergiev which visits London's Barbican Centre, the Vienna Konzerthaus, Toulouse and Antwerp. Future plans include a return visit to the Proms, Spanish festivals, Rome and North America including a major concert at Carnegie Hall.

www.intermusica.co.uk/tours.html



Intermusica News

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News

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PASSIONATE

ABOUT MUSIC,

INSPIRED BY

CREATIVITY,

COMMITTED TO

PARTNERSHIP

NEW SIGNINGS... NEW SIGNINGS... NEW SIGNINGS... NEW SIGNINGS...

We are delighted to welcome two conductors to our roster: **THIERRY FISCHER**, the new Principal Conductor/Artistic Advisor of the Ulster Orchestra, and **SIMON HALSEY**, the newly-appointed Chief Conductor of the Berlin Radio Choir and Chorus Director to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. More inside...

Conductor Thierry Fischer joins Intermusica

Since our last issue we have taken over world management of the Swiss conductor Thierry Fischer, who launched his first season as Principal Conductor/ Artistic Advisor of the Ulster Orchestra on 28 September in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast, with a programme including Mendelssohn Symphony no.2 "Lobgesang" and a new work by the talented young local composer Deidre Gribbin. In mid-October they take both works on tour to New York (Harlem Town Hall), to form the centrepiece of a major new festival "UK with NY". This will bring together in concert and in educational work the communities in Belfast and Harlem - a project whose significance will surely be heightened by the recent tragic events. A tour to Prague and the second recording in a French series for Hyperion Records complement an ongoing Mendelssohn cycle in the Belfast subscription concerts.

Forthcoming guest engagements include the Australian Chamber, Kanazawa Ensemble in Japan (who immediately re-invited him after his debut earlier this Summer), NDR Hannover, Netherlands Radio Chamber, Hallé Orchestra, BBC Symphony, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and 5 weeks with the Northern Sinfonia. The Classical and early Romantic repertoire is a particular strength of Fischer's - a legacy of his days as Principal Flute of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. However he is also greatly in demand for his interpretations of contemporary scores and major works of the 20th century; he had rave reviews for his appearance in Berlin last year with Ensemble Modern, and will conduct at the Ultima Festival of contemporary music in Oslo for the first time this year.

www.intermusica.co.uk/fischer.html



Skrowaczewski completes Bruckner CD cycle

The indefatigable Stanislaw Skrowaczewski recently completed a life-time ambition to record all 11 symphonies by Bruckner with the same orchestra. Skrowaczewski is recognised as one of the great authorities on Bruckner, and his interpretations can be heard on the Arte Nova label with the Saarländischer Rundfunk Orchester where he is Principal Guest Conductor. Much critical praise has been heaped on his illuminating interpretations, and a great deal of interest shown by several prestigious European publications in his life-long affinity with Bruckner. Deeply affected by hearing a recording of a Bruckner symphony as a young child, Skrowaczewski admits to becoming obsessed by the deep psychological meaning he finds in Bruckner's music.

Of his Bruckner 9 recording, Gramophone Magazine said, "the enormous care Skrowaczewski has clearly taken over the preparation of the performance results in orchestral playing of a quality and articulation which ensembles far more famous than the Saarbrücken RSO would be proud to own." Beyond affirming that "Skrowaczewski has things to tell us about this symphony which every Brucknerian ought to hear", the BBC Music Magazine declares, "there's something special about Skrowaczewski's performance. The phrasing is wonderful, not just in the long spans, but in the tiny expressive details - it can be gritty, even ascerbic, but there are times when it speaks from somewhere very deep indeed"

Beyond a busy conducting schedule which sees him appearing with major ensembles on both sides of the Atlantic as well as annual trips to Japan to conduct both the NHK Symphony and Yomiuri Nippon Symphony, Skrowaczewski continues to be an active and award-winning composer.

www.intermusica.co.uk/skrowaczewski.html

Man from the Marlboro Country

Richard Goode spent his summer at the Marlboro Music Festival, of which he is Co-Artistic Director with Mitsuko Uchida, before heading off to Tanglewood where he performed Mozart's Piano Concerto K503 with Bernard Haitink and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. This season Goode will make two major visits to Europe, where his solo recitals will include London, Vienna, Berlin, Amsterdam, Brussels and Lisbon. He will also perform Mozart piano concertos with Ingo Metzmacher and the Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra, at the Halle Orchestra with Stanislaw Skrowaczewski and with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and Mikko Franck, as well as a tour of major German cities with the Academy of St Martin's and Sir Neville Marriner.

www.intermusica.co.uk/goode.html

CHILINGIRIAN QUARTET – UNUSUAL COLLABORATIONS

Following the huge success of their collaboration with the vocal group Anonymous 4 last season, the Chilingirian tour Sweden and visit the Bremen Musikfest again with Anonymous 4 in an extraordinary programme which ranges from a Medieval mass through to the work written specially for the octet by John Tavener and premiered last season at the South Bank Centre Tavener festival, *The Bridegroom*.

Just prior to this the Quartet joined forces with the Brodsky Quartet at the Beethovenfest Bonn to play

Milhaud Quartets nos 13 & 14 – separately, as individual works, and together, as an octet!

The Quartet has also embarked upon a new project with percussionist Pedro Carneiro, and took a fascinating programme of works by contemporary Portuguese composers to the Coimbra Festival in Portugal this Summer. They collaborate again in November at the newly-opened OCEAN venue in London, as part of a celebration of Portuguese music, also featuring stars from the jazz and rock fields.

www.intermusica.co.uk/chilingirian.html

Varga debuts in US

Conductor Gilbert Varga is beginning his 4th season as Music Director of the Euskadi Symphony Orchestra (Basque National Orchestra) in San Sebastian. Varga shares the post with co-Music Director Christian Mandeal. Each season Varga continues to find himself much in demand in both Europe and North America. Besides returning to the major capitals of Europe, this season appearing with major orchestras in Berlin and Paris, for example, Varga will make debuts with

both the Minnesota Orchestra and St Paul Chamber Orchestra in the US.

Varga is renowned for his superb technique and beautifully crafted and eclectic programming, no doubt shaped by his periods of study with Franco Ferrara, Sergio Celibidache and Charles Bruck.

www.intermusica.co.uk/varga.html

Claus Peter Flor on the move

Since his recent *Figaro* at La Monnaie, Flor has appeared with the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse (where he will also conduct *Figaro* next season), hopped over to Montreal for one of his regular appearances with the Montreal Symphony, and made several appearances with the NDR Symphony in Hamburg, Bucharest and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. His regular visits to Holland included the Dutch Radio Philharmonic, Rotterdam Philharmonic and a return to the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra for a programme featuring Brahms 3. This Autumn he spends several weeks in Spain and Italy, including Genova and Trieste, returns to Dallas where he is Principal Guest Conductor for the Szymanowski *Stabat Mater* and Mozart *Requiem*, and conducts Beethoven 9 at the Vienna Konzerthaus

www.intermusica.co.uk/flor.html



Basel Musikmonat – Bamert shakes up the establishment!

As the culmination of a ground-breaking year of new music, including 40 world premieres, in extraordinary venues throughout the city and its surrounds, Matthias Bamert has masterminded an intense month of music-making (60 concerts) in Basel as part of the Europäischer Musikmonat in November. As director of the whole project, Bamert has sought to shake up pre-conceived ideas of who should be interested in classical music, what sort of classical music they should want to listen to, and where they should listen to it, with truly radical effect. See the website for further details:

www.musikmonat.ch. Resident international ensembles in November are the Ensemble Modern, London Sinfonietta, Ensemble Intercontemporain and Klangforum Wien. Bamert will, as their Associate Guest, conduct the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in Basel in a programme of Glanert (world premiere), Torke, Rihm and Turnage, before going to Madrid with them the day after for a more conventional programme. www.intermusica.co.uk/bamert.html



The 2001/2002 International Chamber Music Season once again brings together some of the greatest chamber music groups and instrumentalists from around the world. The season opens with the UK debut of one of the fastest rising American quartets, the Rossetti String Quartet from California. They join Jean-Yves Thibaudet for a programme featuring two of the most popular works in the repertoire, the Dvořák and Schumann piano quintets. Further ahead, season highlights include three concerts by the Emerson Quartet in celebration of their 25th Anniversary, a duo recital by Heinrich Schiff and Till Fellner, the Ysaye Quartet playing the first of Mozart's 'Haydn' quartets, three contrasting programmes from the South Bank's Associate Artists, the Alban Berg Quartet, and collaborations between world-renowned soloists including Tabea Zimmermann and Christian Tetzlaff.

www.intermusica.co.uk/icms.html

Currie dips into video

Colin Currie made his London solo recital debut this summer at the newly-opened Bush Hall, where he will return with duo partner Sam Walton in November. A video was made featuring highlights from Bush Hall including in-depth interviews and explorations of his unusual and diverse repertoire. Contact Catherine Petherbridge (cpetherbridge@intermusica.co.uk) for a copy. In the early Autumn Currie moves to larger platforms when he performs HK Gruber's percussion concerto *Rough Music* with the MDR Orchestra Leipzig and Gruber conducting. He then flies to Dallas where he plays the percussion concerto by Christopher Rouse, *Der gerettete Alberich*, with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Marin Alsop.

www.intermusica.co.uk/currie.html



Renée Fleming, Luciano Pavarotti, Richard Hickox and Gian-Carlo Menotti at a press conference in Spoleto prior to a 90th birthday Gala Concert for Menotti. Hickox conducted and was joined by special guests Plácido Domingo, Jean-Yves Thibaudet and Fleming.

OPERATIC HICKOX

Following his huge success in Cologne with *Billy Budd* last Spring, this summer Hickox conducted Gluck's *Orfeo* in concert at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and as Music Director of the Spoleto Festival he celebrated Gian Carlo Menotti's birthday with 6 performances of his opera *The Saint of Bleeker Street*. He also conducted a gala concert in the beautiful Piazza del Duomo in Spoleto with special guests Plácido Domingo, Renée Fleming and Jean-Yves Thibaudet. Another Menotti project took place in September, with a film for BBC Wales, a CD and DVD of his opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with the City of London Sinfonia, to be broadcast over Christmas. He joined the CLS again at the Barbican Centre for a performance of *Albert Herring*, subsequently recorded by Chandos Records as part of their cycle of Britten operas with Hickox. In December he will

conduct the London Symphony in 2 concert performances of *Hansel and Gretel*. Looking further ahead, he has plans for *Tales of Hoffman* at the Royal Opera, *Alcina* at English National Opera, *Lady Macbeth of Mzensk* in Sydney, *Alexander Nevsky* in concert, and a semi-staged performance of Walton's *Troilus and Cressida* at the Royal Festival Hall with the Philharmonia Orchestra, as part of their Walton celebrations. In September 2002 he will make his debut at the Vienna State Opera with *Billy Budd*.

www.intermusica.co.uk/hickox.html

Macmillan conducts world premiere

James MacMillan made his Proms conducting debut with the world premiere of his latest work, *The Birds of Rhiannon*, described by one critic as "an eruptive 25-minute concerto for orchestra". The work was performed by the BBC Philharmonic, with whom MacMillan holds the position of Composer/Conductor. MacMillan and the BBC Philharmonic will record the work for Chandos this autumn.

"...boldly coloured music, dramatic confrontations of ideas, a powerful surge of momentum, and instrumental lines that have an independent life but gel as a cohesive texture... MacMillan shares

with Rimsky a virtuosity in defining and combining instrumental timbres." (Daily Telegraph)

"MacMillan took the Welsh Mabinogion as his source and used his flair as an orchestral colourist to full effect, helped by water gong, (very loud) thundersheets and rain sticks... The Manchester-based BBC Philharmonic mustered all the necessary character and cogency for this world premiere by its new Conductor/Composer." (The Observer)

www.intermusica.co.uk/macmillan.html

James Ehnes makes breathtaking Proms debut

The young Canadian violinist James Ehnes made a spectacular BBC Proms debut in July. This gifted musician has played with a number of the world's most prestigious ensembles, but nothing prepared him for the warmth of the Proms audience, or indeed of the 2001 British summer. Playing Prokofiev's second concerto in the heat of a sweltering Royal Albert Hall, Ehnes must have empathised with the dedicatee of the work Robert Soetans, who premiered the work in Madrid in 1935. This was also a London debut for Ehnes and the critical response was as enthusiastic as that of the Proms audience. The Telegraph wrote, "this performance emphasised his winning combination of warm, glistening tone, supple virtuosity and subtle expressiveness", and The Times concurred, "His technical command was never in doubt...he found an appropriate sweetness of tone and lyrical vein for the slow movement". Ehnes returns to London next March to play Mozart concerto no. 2 at the Barbican, again with the BBC Symphony and Sir Andrew Davis.

www.intermusica.co.uk/ehnes.html

Louis Lortie in Montreal

Lortie and Beethoven will be synonymous in the minds of the concert-going public of Montreal, following his all-encompassing Beethoven-fest with the Montreal Symphony this Autumn. Lortie will work his way through all the piano concerti, the triple concerto (special guest Pinchas Zukerman) and the 1st symphony (conducted from the keyboard), all 32 of the solo piano sonatas, AND the piano trios and all the sonatas for violin/piano with James Ehnes and for cello/piano with Jan Vogler.

This Herculean task follows on from a Rachmaninov concert with the London

Symphony and Marin Alsop in Daytona and with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at Hollywood Bowl, as well as Prokofiev 1 at the BBC Proms with Vänskä and the BBC Scottish. In November he tours Australia, including concerts with the Sydney Symphony/Markus Stenz and the complete Chopin Etudes in recital. In December he returns home to Europe for concerts with the Dresden Staatskapelle.

Watch this space for details of Lortie's next monumental project, to follow in 2002/3...

www.intermusica.co.uk/lortie.html



Welcoming Simon Halsey

Universally regarded as one of the finest choral conductors and choir trainers in the world, Simon Halsey has recently joined Intermusica for worldwide representation at a pivotal moment in his career as he begins life as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Berlin Radio Choir. There he will re-ignite his close relationship with Sir Simon Rattle, who brought him to Birmingham in the 1980's to build the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus into one of the great symphonic choirs of the world. His role will also involve important projects with both the Deutsche Symphonie Orchester and Kent Nagano as well as the Berlin Rundfunk Sinfonie Orchester and Marek Janowski. The Choir has a major series of a cappella concerts at the Berlin Philharmonie and tour internationally each season.

Currently also Principal Guest Conductor of the Dutch Radio Choir, Halsey continues in his role as Chief of the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and guest conducts throughout the world. Furthermore, his recently formed choir of hand-picked professional singers from London EUROPEAN VOICES (also under exclusive management with Intermusica) performs the most complicated and colourful scores with unprecedented precision and bravura. They have been engaged by Rattle for a number of future collaborations with both the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and took part in his concert performance of *Parsifal* at the BBC Proms last year.

www.intermusica.co.uk/halsey.html

Metzmacher; Nono and Henze begin a benchmark season

Luigi Nono has long been for Ingo Metzmacher one of the most important composers of the last century and his seminal work *Prometeo* a major influence on his musical outlook. Returning to the rarely performed work after a number of years, Metzmacher gave two sold-out performances with the Ensemble Modern at the Luzern Festival, the beginning of a special relationship between Metzmacher and the Festival that will spawn a number of major projects in the future. In September he began his Hamburg season with two huge events, the week-long Hamburg Musikfest devoted to contemporary music of which he is Artistic Director and the opening of the Hamburg Opera's own season which began with a new production of Henze's *We come to the River*. Other new productions this season include *Don Carlos*, *Katja Kabanova* and *Der Rosenkavalier*. Later in the season Metzmacher makes his debuts with the London Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and Chicago Symphony and returns to the Boston Symphony following his triumph there last year as well as to the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and Munich Philharmonic.

www.intermusica.co.uk/metzmacher.html

McCreesh Minnesota Messiah and more!

After his debuts last Christmas at both the San Francisco Symphony and the National Symphony in Washington, Paul McCreesh continues to conquer the US with a debut at the Minnesota Orchestra this December. McCreesh has just returned from a triumphant tour with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie, where he played a programme of Gluck, Saint Saens, Tchaikovsky and Mozart. Other upcoming engagements will see him conduct the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, the orchestra at Den Norske Oper, the Copenhagen Philharmonic and the Kölner Rundfunk Sinfonie. Future opera engagements include a world premiere staging of Handel's *Jephtha* at Welsh National Opera, a *Magic Flute* at the Royal Danish Opera and a new production of *Orlando* at the Komische Oper Berlin.

www.intermusica.co.uk/mccreesh

Kavakos thrills at the festivals!

The Greek virtuoso Leonidas Kavakos made his Chicago Symphony debut this summer playing the Berg concerto under Sir Andrew Davis at Ravinia, the orchestra's summer home. He also performed the Vivaldi *Four Seasons* at the Hollywood Bowl. Kavakos then closed a busy season by making his third visit to the BBC Proms where he moved promenaders with his legendary interpretation of the gloriously lyrical Sibelius Violin concerto. *"This opening of the Sibelius Violin Concerto is one of music's wondrous moments, and Kavakos's first solo, so shyly begun, so beautifully constrained, warmed up to show his magnificent sound. Kavakos has a fantastic technique, and this concerto has many solo cadenzas in which to shine."* (The Independent)

www.intermusica.co.uk/kavakos.html

Haefliger's Festive Summer

Andreas Haefliger had a busy summer at some of the world's major festivals. He gave a stunning performance of Beethoven's 3rd Piano Concerto to the Hollywood Bowl with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra: *"With abundant, resourceful technique and a tone consistently clear, golden, bright and mellow, Haefliger set a standard, making music of compelling beauty and forceful continuity"* (Los Angeles Times). Haefliger followed this with another performance of the Beethoven at the Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart festival in New York and then with the Cleveland Orchestra and Andrew Davis. He rounded the summer off with a visit to the BBC Proms in London with Bartók's 3rd



Piano Concerto, of which The Times wrote *"Whether tripping shyly through the notes, thundering with bravura, or clinging lusciously to the slow movement's chorale, Haefliger proved the total master of this quixotic score."*

www.intermusica.co.uk/haefliger.html



Gatti triumphs in Verdi

This Verdi anniversary year has seen some incredible performances, none more moving than Daniele Gatti's *Requiem* at the BBC Proms, only days after the devastating events in New York. On the night of the catastrophe itself the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Gatti and the London Symphony Chorus were assembled in Gent Cathedral for a *Requiem* performance, as part of the Flanders Festival. This special concert was profoundly moving for all concerned. The next night, Brussels' Palais des Beaux Arts rang out to the thrilling sounds of Italian opera in concert. *Don Carlos* Act III and *Aida* Act II were given complete by Gatti and his orchestra, with a cast of mainly Italian singers, including Roberto Scandiuzzi and Fiorenza Cedolins.

The San Sebastian Festival also hosted Gatti and Verdi, this time the Royal Philharmonic combined with the superb local choir Orfeon Donostiarra. This Basque choir is one of the sensations of the region and in spite of a difficult schedule for the Orchestra the roof was truly raised in a further performance of Verdi's *Requiem*.

Ingo Metzmacher in Bonn

The Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra under its Music Director gave the closing concert of the Bonn Beethovenfest in early October. A quick trip from Hamburg, courtesy of DeutscheBahn, found the Orchestra playing to an enthusiastic audience. The programme included the Beethoven Violin Concerto (soloist Shunsuke Sato) as well as classic Metzmacher repertoire - Ives Symphony No. 4.



Autumn preview - major tours

Valery Gergiev and the Rotterdam Philharmonic take to the road at the end of October for four concerts in consecutive days. This autumn's Gergiev festival featured the music of Shostakovich, and four of his works are taken on the tour, including the Piano Concerto No. 1 with Alexander Toradze and the Ninth Symphony. Starting in Vienna, the tour comes to London's Barbican Centre via Toulouse and Antwerp. This marks the first of many concerts under our new exclusive touring agreement with the orchestra.

Richard Hickox, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the legendary baritone Bryn Terfel tour the UK together in November. Hickox and his award-winning orchestra visit London, Manchester, Nottingham and Reading in a programme which includes Finzi's song cycle *Let us Garlands Bring* and Walton's Symphony No. 1.

Mikhail Pletnev and the Russian National Orchestra fly in to Athens for two concerts in the Megaron Concert Hall. Founder Pletnev brings an eclectic mix of music, including Taneyev's cantata *St John of Damascus*.

www.intermusica.co.uk/tours.html

Looking forward into history

The period instrument orchestra world saw massive growth in the last decade and interest and involvement in authentic performance continues to have a large following around the world. Indeed the market in many parts of the world continues to thrive, almost against the main trends in classical music. Intermusica is proud to work on a regular basis with three of the world's finest ensembles who have had a busy few months over the summer.

The **Venice Baroque Orchestra** joined Intermusica earlier this year, and is represented by us in much of Europe. Our first project together took the Orchestra, under the direction of its founder Andrea Marcon, to the new concert hall in Thessaloniki, Greece and then onwards for two sold-out concerts in the Istanbul Festival. Guiliano Carmignola was the soloist, who can also be heard with the Orchestra on their recent award-winning recordings for Sony.



Istanbul Festival was also the scene of a remarkable performance of the *Messiah* by **Sir John Eliot Gardiner** and his **English Baroque Soloists** and **Monteverdi Choir**. Sir John Eliot was performing at the festival for the first time and the capacity audience in the Hagia Eireni church was thrilled by the extraordinary clarity and vision in the performance.

Sir John Eliot was also a guest with us at the Luzern Festival this summer, with the pianist Robert Levin. Programme included Mozart K491 and Mendelssohn's *Scottish* symphony.



The **Academy of Ancient Music** returned to Japan after an absence of some years. **Christopher Hogwood** directed the Orchestra he founded nearly thirty years ago in a series of concerts around Japan, the highlight of which was a Suntory Hall concert filmed and recorded for TV and radio, broadcast by NHK. En route to Japan the Orchestra stopped off to perform in the superb Seoul Arts Center. The Orchestra will next be in the Far East celebrating its thirtieth anniversary in June 2003.



Leipzig Gewandhaus at the Proms

Res severa verum gaudium (Real pleasure is a serious matter) is the motto of the Orchestra's Leipzig home, and it was a real pleasure to welcome the Orchestra to London for two concerts in the BBC Proms. Extraordinary as it may seem, these concerts were also the Proms debut for the Orchestra's Music Director Herbert Blomstedt. As a former Kapellmeister Mendelssohn had to be represented in the programme, and the *Overture and Incidental Music from Midsummer Night's Dream* opened the first concert. Together with Dvořák's Ninth Symphony this was recorded for subsequent TV broadcast. Leonidas Kavakos was the soloist in Sibelius' Violin Concerto, and Mahler's Fourth Symphony completed the second sold-out concert.

Dancing Freiburgers

Germany's leading period instrument orchestra, the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, made their debut at the Edinburgh International Festival. Under the direction of Gottfried von der Goltz they gave a superlative concert in the Queen's Hall, broadcast live on the BBC, and accompanied Amide Miller's choreography in Ballet Freiburg's production of *Art of Fugue* in two performances at the Festival Theatre.

Swiss Maestro and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra



Matthias Bamert's relationship as Associate Guest Conductor with the Orchestra continues to grow and bring exciting new opportunities. In July they visited Santiago together, a return invitation after their concert there in 1999, for a performance of Berlioz *Symphonie Fantastique*. The Orchestra was also invited with Bamert for his return to the Luzern Festival, which he had directed from 1992 until 1998. Luzern's fabulous hall was

packed to the rafters for the concert which opened with Strauss *Also sprach Zarathustra* and closed with Holst's *Planets*. November sees the Orchestra and Bamert on the road again, first visiting Basel for a concert in the Europäischer Musikmonat, and then on to Madrid for a performance in the Teatro Real.

Intermusica at the BBC Proms

A Proms season of enormous richness and variety for our artists and groups included two visiting orchestras, a major debut, a world premiere as well as a diverse range of artists and repertoire. Gidon Kremer's **KREMERATA BALTICA** performed a typically eclectic mix of works including a string orchestra arrangement of the great Schubert C major Quintet. The **LEIPZIG GEWANDHAUS ORCHESTRA** under their Music Director **HERBERT BLOMSTEDT** gave two sold-out concerts (one of them televised) in repertoire that included Mendelssohn, Dvořák, Sibelius and Mahler. The Royal Albert Hall acoustics showed off to perfection the unique sound-world of the orchestra, one of the most distinctive of any orchestra today, a point much discussed by the critics; "the playing and the mellow richness of the Leipzig sound can only be described as exemplary" (The Guardian). **LEONIDAS KAVAKOS** performed the Sibelius Concerto with them, immediately establishing a close rapport with both conductor and orchestra. **JAMES MACMILLAN** conducted the world premiere of his own "Birds of Rhiannon" with the BBC Philharmonic and The Sixteen, a work that will surely be much performed around the world in future years. **RICHARD HICKOX** gave two Proms with his new orchestra the BBC National Orchestra of Wales which included a rare performance of a Rubbra Symphony coupled with Elgar 2nd Symphony and in the second concert a moving performance of Britten's Spring Symphony. **JAMES EHNES**, the phenomenally gifted violinist from Canada, debuted superbly with Prokofiev's 2nd Concerto with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davies and **LOUIS LORTIE**, always a popular Proms guest, sparked in another Prokofiev work, the 1st Piano Concerto. **ANDREAS HAEFLIGER** returned to the Proms to deliver a powerful performance of Bartok's 3rd Concerto. Finally, the **LONDON SYMPHONY CHORUS** had no fewer than three Proms concerts this year; Verdi with both the Halle Orchestra/ Mark Elder, and the LSO/Antonio Pappano and Britten with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales/Hickox, proving once again that they are the most versatile and accomplished chorus in the land.

Choir Notes

King's College Choir were in recording sessions for EMI, before departing for a three week tour of Australia. A busy summer also saw them at the Cheltenham Festival and in the Netherlands. The Choir have just renewed their exclusive recording contract with EMI for a further seven discs. EMI have been outstanding supporters of the Choir over the years and the latest disc, Coronation Anthems, is released this month. Their second concert season in London opens shortly at St John's, Smith Square.

The **London Symphony Chorus** were in three BBC Proms concerts - Britten *Spring Symphony* with Hickox, operatic excerpts with Mark Elder and Verdi's *Four Sacred Pieces* with Pappano and the LSO. The Chorus' recording with Pappano and the LSO of Puccini's *Messe di Gloria* has been receiving rave reviews. A quick trip to Gent for Verdi's Requiem with Gatti was followed by recording sessions with John Adams of his opera *Death of Klinghoffer*.

Stephen Cleobury and the **BBC Singers** made a short hop across the Irish Sea for a concert to open the Belfast Festival. A collaboration with the Irish Chamber Orchestra included Handel's *Dixit Dominus*.

STAFF NEWS

We welcome Leyla Günes as Artist Manager in September. Formerly Artistic Manager of The King's Consort, she replaces James Alexander who is leaving to take a Masters in Psychotherapy. We also welcome Stephen Chamberlain in the role of assistant to Catherine Petherbridge.



Left to right: Alicia Beckett, James Alexander, Mirjana Ninkovic, Stephen Lumsden, Fatma Kutuk, Alan Coates, Catherine Petherbridge, Dominique Tönnemann, Nick McGhee, Susie McLeod, Peter Savory, Liz Baines, Susannah York Skinner, Robert Tench, Jennifer Snapes (not present at time of photograph: Stephen Chamberlain, Leyla Günes).

Intermusica Artists' Management Ltd

16 Duncan Terrace, London N1 8BZ
Tel: 020 7278 5455 Fax: 020 7278 8434
Email: mail@intermusica.co.uk
www.intermusica.co.uk

Edited by Catherine Petherbridge

Photo credits Also: Grant Leighton Gergiev, Halsey: Marco Borggreve Fischer: Clive Barda Skrowaczewski: Peter Kloos ICMS: Richard Haughton Hickox: Arthur Cook Haeffliger: Christian Steiner Gatti: Eric Richmond Staff: Jennifer Snapes Telfel: Andrew Eccles

Record Shelf

A selection of recent releases by our artists:

Greek virtuoso violinist **Leonidas Kavakos** has released a recording of the Hindemith Violin Concerto on Chandos. This unaccountably neglected work is recorded with the BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier, and this recording has been judged by many as the best currently available. "Kavakos's assured technique, effortless virtuosity and ravishing sound bring striking panache, brilliance and expressive warmth to this account His reading of the finale is tense and exciting and he rattles off the written-out cadenza and ensuing coda with astonishing brilliance." The Strad



Kavakos
Hindemith



Ehnes
Bruch



Hickox
Vaughn Williams



Lortie
Franck



McCreech
Gabrieli



Varga
Bruch



Kupiec
Bacewicz



Skrowaczewski
Bruckner Cycle

French Showpieces is one of several significant CD's that Canadian violinist **James Ehnes** has released this year. It was the fourth of Ehnes' CD's to be awarded 10 out of 10 by Répertoire Magazine. "His playing, which seems to break through all technical constraints, makes one listen to this recording with one simple feeling: sheer pleasure". Ehnes also recorded Bruch's violin concertos 1 & 3 for CBC. "alternatively reflective and passionate in the first two movements, sparkling in the finale."

Richard Hickox' premiere recording of the original version of Vaughan Williams' Second Symphony gives us the first chance to hear much music that was excised from the standard revised version. The recording was greeted in the Sunday Telegraph as "a disc of immense importance to lovers of English music", and has received unanimous praise in the press. The Sunday Times relates that Hickox has the LSO "on unbeatable form" and Gramophone describes the disc as "riveting listening".

In May Chandos released a disc of the music of César Franck featuring **Louis Lortie** as soloist in the Symphonic Variations. "Louis Lortie is the excellent soloist in the Symphonic Variations, spontaneously poetic in the slow sections, sparking and light in the scherzando finale." (Gramophone)

Just in time for Christmas **Paul McCreech** and the renowned **Gabrieli Consort & Players** recreate a Christmas Mass from St Mark's, Venice around 1600. Cipriano de Rore's magnificent seven-part Mass, *Praeter rerum serium*, forms the centrepiece, and is surrounded by fanfares, plainchant and some of Giovanni Gabrieli's most expansive and beautiful works. As with every other McCreech/Gabrieli Consort recording, this is sure to blaze a trail and scoop significant prizes.

Gilbert Varga made two CD releases earlier this year. As part of a long term Koch/Schwann project to record all the string works by Max Bruch with the Bamberg Symphoniker, Varga coupled the Bruch Violin concertos numbers 1 & 3, with Isabelle van Keulen. For BIS, Varga made world premiere recordings of three trumpet works with Håkan Hardenberger as the versatile soloist. These new works were recorded with the Malmö Symphony Orchestra.

Polish virtuoso pianist **Ewa Kupiec** releases a disc of piano works by Grazyna Bacewicz on the Haenssler label. Regarded as Poland's greatest female composer, Bacewicz described her own compositional development as a "constant evolution". These works represent Bacewicz's entire collection of published piano compositions and span various styles, from Neo-classicism with its combination of strict form and drive to short atonal sketches.